

Bozeman Rifle Club - Greenway Range



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

PART I. Purpose of and Need for Action

1. Project Title: Bozeman Rifle Club - Greenway Range

2. Type of Proposed Action: Range improvement, maintenance and upgrades (See Paragraph 10).

3. Location Affected by Proposed Action: The Bozeman Rifle Club is located on the Gallatin County Fairgrounds in Bozeman, Montana (See figures 1 & 2).

4. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action: MCA87-1-276 through 87-1-279 (Legislative established policies and procedures for the establishment and improvement of shooting ranges) MCA87-2-105 (Departmental authority to expend funds to provide training in the safe handling and use of firearms and safe hunting practices). The 2007 Montana Legislature has authorized funding for the establishment of a Shooting Range Development Program providing financial assistance for the development of shooting ranges for public purposes. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks has responsibility for the administration of the program, including the necessary guidelines and procedures governing applications for funding assistance under the program.

5. Need for the Action(s): The Bozeman Rifle Club is in its ninth year of an operational lease from Gallatin County for the range building it uses. As part of that agreement the club is responsible for any range construction, general building maintenance, and improvements. Nine years of continuous and increasing usage have had its effect on the facilities. Exterior and trim of the building were last painted 5 years ago, the windows need replacement, additional range lights are necessary, and the classroom requires heat, cabinets and a sink.

6. Objectives for the Action(s): Perform general maintenance and repair the facility, and improve the range.

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7. Maps and Supporting Figures:



Figure 1 – Gallatin County Fairgrounds, Bozeman, MT

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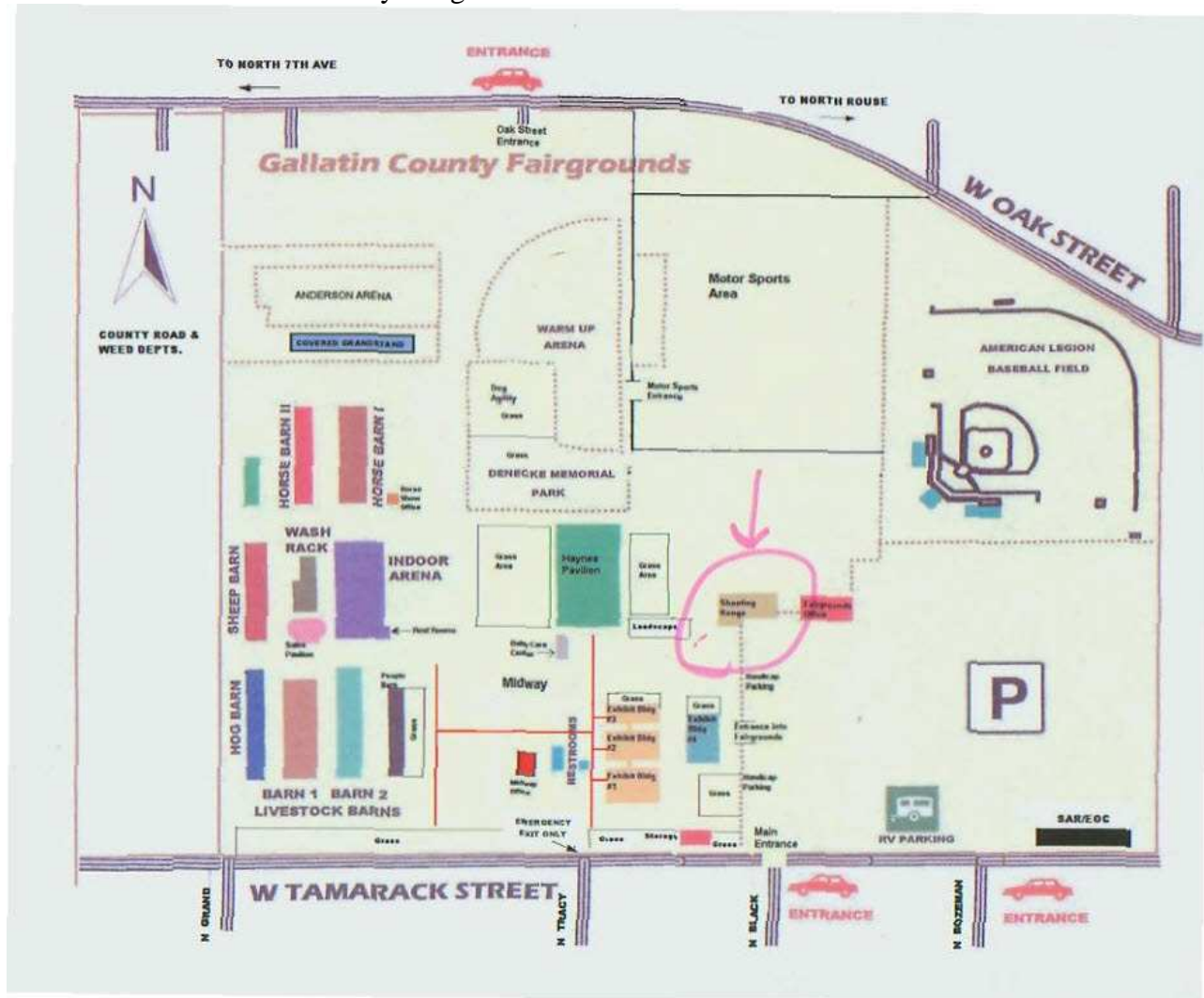


Figure 2 – Location of Rifle Range on Gallatin County Fairgrounds

8. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected:

All proposed improvements are within the club facility located on the Gallatin County Fairgrounds.

9. Affected Environment (A brief description of the affected area of the proposed project):

The area affected is the existing Bozeman Rifle Club building at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds leased from Gallatin County, Montana (See Figure 1).

10. Description of Project:

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Overall improvements to the Range are as follows:

- Exterior paint and trim repair
- Gas heating fireplace for the classroom
- Interior paint for walls and special floor paint for range and auxiliary rooms
- New vinyl exterior windows on south and west side
- Additional range lights
- Cabinetry and sink for classroom
- Classroom folding tables
- Construction of turning target equipment

In Accordance With (IAW) contracts agreements with Fish, Wildlife & Parks, all projects are to be completed by June 30, 2009.

11. List any Other Local, State, or Federal Agency that has Overlapping or Additional Jurisdiction:

Permits, Licenses and/or Authorizations:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>
N/A	

***Funding:**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$7,186

*All outside sources of monetary funding including FWP, but not in-kind contributions.

12. Affiliations, Cooperating Agencies, User Groups and/or Supporting Groups:

The Bozeman Rifle Club conducts a wide range of shooting related activities with a diverse community group.

- 4-H Rifle shooting Program
- Junior rifle shooters
- Hunter Education
- Gallatin County Sheriff's department and other law enforcement
- NRA Pistol Matches
- Concealed carry instruction courses
- Women's Shooter safety orientation classes
- Small bore rifle and pistol leagues
- Classroom is open to public groups
- Range is open for public shooting three days per week

13. History of the Planning and Scoping Process, and Any Public Involvement:

Proposed range improvements had been discussed within the membership of the club, the

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lessor, and with the associated project vendors and contractors.

14. List of Agencies Consulted/Contacted During Preparation of the EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

15. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor:

K.L. Bruwelheide, 1406 Robin Lane, Bozeman, MT 59715, (406) 587-0405

16. Other Pertinent Information:

The Range is operated and administered by the Bozeman Rifle Club under a lease agreement with the Gallatin County Fairgrounds. Operational funds for the Range are derived solely from range fees charged for daily shooting and from membership dues of the Bozeman rifle club.

Shooting range applications require the participant's governing body to approve by resolution its submission of applications for shooting range funding assistance. Resolution Date: April 23, 2008

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Abbreviated Checklist – The degree and intensity determines extent of

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Environmental Review. An abbreviated checklist may be used for those projects that are not complex, controversial, or are not in environmental sensitive areas)

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				X		
3. Introduction of new species into an area				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				X		
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
8. Air quality or objectionable odors				X		
9. Historical & archaeological sites				X		
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment.

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Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Social structures and cultural diversity				X		
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat				X		
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural production				X		
5. Human health				X		
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				X		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities				X		
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				X		
9. Distribution & density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services				X		
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

Part III. Environmental Consequences

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur? NO

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant? This proposed action has no

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impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant. Cumulative impacts have been assessed considering any incremental impact of the proposed action when they are combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and no significant impacts or substantially controversial issues were found. There are no extreme hazards created with this project and there are no conflicts with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan.

Identification of the Preferred Alternatives:

The proposed alternative A, alternative B and the no action alternative were considered.

- **Alternative A (Proposed Alternative)** is as described in paragraph 10 (Description of Project) to provide overall facility improvements.
- **Alternative B (No Action Alternative)** Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Shooting Sports Grant money would be denied and the area will remain an as an active indoor range without proposed improvements.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented: Two alternatives have been considered, **A** (Proposed Alternative) and **B** (No Action Alternative). There were no other alternatives that were deemed reasonably available, nor prudent.

Neither the proposed **Alternative (A)** nor the no action **Alternative (B)** would have any significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences.

- There are beneficial consequences to Acceptance of the **Proposed Alternative (A)** to repairing and improving the shooting range increasing the shooting sports opportunities in Gallatin County.
- The **No Action Alternative (B)** would be not to improve the range facility and not make necessary building repairs, but to continue on with present facilities. Land use would remain the same. Present activities include indoor small bore rifle shooting, pistol shooting, and hunter or shooter educations courses without the proposed improvements to the operations. Therefore the proposed alternative is the prudent alternative.

Describe any Alternatives considered and eliminated from Detailed Study:

NONE

List and explain proposed mitigative measures (stipulations):

NONE

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:

K.L. Bruwelheide, 1406 Robin Lane, Bozeman, MT 59715

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

PART IV NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

All of the pertinent or potential impacts of the project have been reviewed, discussed, and analyzed. None of the project reviewed were complex, controversial, or located in an environmentally sensitive area. The projects being proposed are on the Gallatin County Fairgrounds and the facilities are leased from Gallatin County. The low impact activities proposed, the increased recreational opportunity, and the improved access for the handicapped, all indicate that this should be considered the final version of the environmental assessment. There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative (A). The history of the Bozeman Rifle Club, providing shooting opportunities to its members and the public indicates support for the proposed alternative. Therefore, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should approve the proposed alternative (A) for the repair and improvement of the Bozeman Rifle club as outlined in Para. 2 & 10.

EA prepared by: GENE R. HICKMAN

Ecological Assessments

Helena, MT 59602

Date Completed: July 28, 2008

PART IV. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS: None required.

Describe public involvement, if any:

Announcement for EA comment will be published in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle and on the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks website to allow an opportunity for public review.

Additionally the EA will be available for review on the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks website.